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UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON
INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW
Twenty-fifth session
New York, 4-22 May 1992

PROGRAMME OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED NATIONS
COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW

Uniform commercial law in the twenty-first century

(United Nations Headquarters, New York, 18-22 May 1992)

1. The Congress, organized by the secretariat of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), forms part of the twenty-fifth session of UNCITRAL and is designed as a contribution by the Commission to the activities of the United Nations Decade of International Law.

2. Participants at the Congress are invited to consider the accomplishments achieved in the progressive unification and harmonization of international trade law during the past 25 years and the needs that can be foreseen for the next 25 years. Over 60 speakers from different regions and legal systems will present a panoramic view of developments in major areas of international commercial law.

3. The Congress is practice-oriented in providing to practising lawyers, corporate counsel, ministry officials, judges, arbitrators, teachers of law and other users of uniform legal texts:

(a) Up-to-date information and practical guidance concerning principal legal texts of universal relevance;

(b) An opportunity to express their opinion on the current state of the unification of the laws and rules governing world commerce;

(c) A forum in which to voice their practical needs as a basis for future work by the Commission and other formulating agencies.

Monday (18 May)	Process and value of the unification of commercial law (lessons for the future drawn from the past 25 years)
Morning	Chairperson: José María Abascal Zamora, Mexico, Chairman of the twenty-fifth session of the Commission
10-10.15 a.m.	Opening address: Boutros Boutros-Ghali Secretary-General, United Nations
10.15-10.30 a.m.	The birth of UNCITRAL (with a minute of silence in memory of Clive M. Schmitthoff): Aron Broches, former Vice-President and General Counsel, World Bank, Washington; Ambassador André Erdös, Permanent Representative of Hungary
10.30-10.50 a.m.	The goals of unification: John O. Honnold, Professor, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia (Secretary of UNCITRAL, 1969-1974)
10.50-11.10 a.m.	The process of preparing universally acceptable uniform legal rules: Willem C. Vis, Professor, Pace University, White Plains (Secretary of UNCITRAL, 1974-1980)
11.10-11.40 a.m.	Break
11.40 a.m.-12.30 p.m.	Methods of improved coordination between formulating agencies: Eric E. Bergsten, Professor, Fordham University, New York (Secretary of UNCITRAL, 1985-1991); Malcolm Evans, Secretary-General, International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), Rome; Michel Pelichet, Deputy Secretary General, The Hague Conference on Private International Law, The Hague; Dominique Hascher, Secretary, Commission on International Arbitration, International Chamber of Commerce, Paris

12.30-1 p.m.	Open floor
1-3 p.m.	Lunch break
Afternoon	Chairperson: Rafael Eyzaguirre, Professor and Attorney, Santiago de Chile
3-3.40 p.m.	Various techniques of unification: (a) Legislative means of unification: Sergej Lebedev, Professor, Moscow; (b) Non-legislative means of harmonization: Joachim Bonell, Professor, University "La Sapienza", Rome
3.40-4.20 p.m.	Application and interpretation of uniform legal texts: (a) Travaux préparatoires, case collections, commentaries and other aids in interpretation: Zhang Yuqing, Department of Treaties and Law, Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, Beijing; (b) "The cook who eats his own soup": experiences of a judge applying a legal text codrafted by him: Howard H. Holtzmann, Judge, Iran-United States Claims Tribunal, The Hague; (c) Proposals for an international tribunal to interpret uniform legal texts: Louis Sohn, Professor, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
4.20-4.50 p.m.	Break
4.50-5.30 p.m.	Value of universal unification for regional integration and development - statements by representatives of the following regional organizations: Asian African Legal Consultative Committee Organization of American States Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States European Economic Community
5.30-6 p.m.	Open floor

Tuesday (19 May)	From goods to services
Morning	Sale of goods Chairperson: Sergej Lebedev, Professor, Moscow
10-10.30 a.m.	The United Nations Sales Convention: An overview and consideration of some practical issues relating to it: S. Kofi Date-Bah, Commonwealth Secretariat, London
10.30-11 a.m.	Novel features of the ICC INCOTERMS 1990: Jan Ramberg, Professor, Stockholm University
11-11.50 a.m.	Voices of international practice:* Hans van Houtte, Professor and Attorney, Brussels, Subcommittee on International Sales, International Bar Association; Burghard Piltz, Attorney, Gütersloh, Union Internationale des Avocats; Rafael Eyzaguirre, Professor and Attorney, Santiago de Chile, President, Inter-American Commercial Arbitration Commission, Inter-American Bar Association; Helen Hartnell, Professor, Tulane University, New Orleans, Section on International Law and Practice, American Bar Association; Michael L. Sher, Attorney, New York, The Association of the Bar of the City of New York
11.50 a.m.-12.20 p.m.	Break
12.20-1 p.m.	Open floor
1-3 p.m.	Lunch break

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* Representatives of selected bar associations will assess the practical relevance of existing uniform legal texts and suggest topics for future work by UNCITRAL or other formulating agencies.

Afternoon	Supply of services Chairperson: H.E. Joko-Smart, Professor and Attorney, Freetown
3-3.30 p.m.	Practical questions relating to the UNIDROIT Leasing Convention (1988): Roy Goode, Professor, St. John's College, Oxford
3.30-4 p.m.	The UNCITRAL Legal Guide on Industrial Works and the new FIDIC conditions: James B. Myers, Attorney, Boston
4-4.50 p.m.	Voices of international practice: Robert Nicholson, Judge, Perth, The Law Association for Asia and the Pacific (LAWASIA); Richard Lutringer, Attorney, New York, President, American Foreign Law Association; José Ignacio Cruz, Attorney, New York, Mexican Bar Association; Edward V. Lahey, Vice-President and General Counsel, Pepsico Inc., Westchester-Fairfield Corporate Counsel Association; Christopher Osakwe, Professor, Los Angeles, International Service Industries Committee, American Bar Association
4.50-5.20 p.m.	Break
5.20-6 p.m.	Open floor
Wednesday (20 May)	From traditional payments to electronic messages
Morning	Payments, credits and banking Chairperson: Ana Isabel Piaggi de Vanossi, Professor and Judge, Buenos Aires
10-10.30 a.m.	A Banking Lawyer's Assessment of the UNCITRAL Bills and Notes Convention (1988): Bradley Crawford, Q.C., Professor and Attorney, Toronto
10.30-11 a.m.	"UCP 500": Proposed revision of the ICC Uniform Customs and Practice for Documentary Credits: Salvatore Maccarone, Professor and Attorney, Rome

11-11.50 a.m.	Voices of international practice: Fernando Mora Rojas, Professor and Attorney, San José, Latin American Federation of Banks (FELABAN); Robert D. Webster, Attorney, New York, Banking Law Committee, International Bar Association; Umberto Burani, Secretary-General, Banking Federation of the European Community; Hugo J. Hahn, Professor, Würzburg, International Law Association; George A. Hisert, Attorney, San Francisco Chairman, Letter of Credit Subcommittee, Uniform Commercial Code Committee, California State Bar
11.50 a.m.- 12.20 p.m.	Break
12.20-1 p.m.	Open floor
1-3 p.m.	Lunch break
Afternoon	Electronic data interchange (EDI) Chairperson: Joachim Bonell, Professor, Rome
3-3.30 p.m.	Electronic commerce and the law: Amelia H. Boss, Professor, Temple University, Philadelphia
3.30-4 p.m.	Uniform legal rules needed for EDI: José María Abascal Zamora, Professor and Attorney, Mexico City
4-4.50 p.m.	Voices of international practice: Jeffrey B. Ritter, Attorney, Columbus, ECE Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures (WP.4); Sylvia Khatcherian, Attorney, New York, Committee on International Computer and Technology Law, International Bar Association; Papa Moussa Ndiaye, Legal Counsel, International Centre of Foreign Trade of Senegal, Dakar; Ciro Angarita Barón, Professor and Judge, Bogota; Olav Torvund, Professor, Oslo, Norwegian Research Center for Computers and Law

4.50-5.20 p.m.	Break
5.20-6 p.m.	Open floor
Thursday (21 May)	Transport; dispute settlement
Morning	Transport Chairperson: Rolf Herber, Professor, Hamburg
10-10.30 a.m.	From the Hague to Hamburg: Towards modern uniform rules for maritime transport: Joko-Smart, Professor and Attorney, Freetown
10.30-11 a.m.	Liability standards in the United Nations Terminal Operators Convention (1991) and other transport conventions: Jean-Paul Beraudo, President, Court of Appeal, Grenoble
11-11.50 a.m.	Voices of international practice: O. P. Sharma, Attorney, New Delhi, President, Asia-Pacific Lawyers Association (Indian Chapter); Charles I. Idehen, Attorney, Lagos, President, African Bar Association; Lennard Rambusch, Attorney, New York, Maritime and Transport Law Committee, International Bar Association; Dieter Rabe, Attorney, Hamburg, German Lawyers Association; Geoffrey J. Ginos, Attorney, New York, Section on International Law and Practice, New York State Bar Association
11.50 a.m.-12.20 p.m.	Break
12.20-1 p.m.	Open floor
1-3 p.m.	Lunch break

Afternoon	Dispute settlement Chairperson: Gavan Griffith, Solicitor-General of Australia
3-3.30 p.m.	Practical problems in applying the 1958 New York Convention: Albert Jan van den Berg, Professor and Attorney, Amsterdam
3.30-4 p.m.	Useful additions to the UNCITRAL Model Arbitration Law: Ivan Szasz, Professor and Attorney, Budapest
4-4.50 p.m.	Voices of international practice: Giorgio Bernini, Professor and Attorney, Bologna, President, International Council for Commercial Arbitration; John M. Townsend, Attorney, Washington, Law and Corporate Counsel Committees, American Arbitration Association; Dominique Hascher, Paris, Secretary, Commission on International Arbitration, International Chamber of Commerce; Jan Paulsson, Attorney, Paris, Users' Councils, London Court of International Arbitration; M. I. M. Aboul-Enein, Cairo, Director, Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration
4.50-5.20 p.m.	Break
5.20-6 p.m.	Open floor
Friday (22 May)	The future role of UNCITRAL Chairperson: Boon Teik Tan, Attorney-General, Singapore
10-10.20 a.m.	The changing role of UNCITRAL: Kazuaki Sono, Professor, Sapporo, Assistant General Counsel, International Monetary Fund (Secretary of UNCITRAL 1980-1985)
10.20-10.40 a.m.	Promoting wider awareness and acceptance of uniform legal texts: Gerold Herrmann, Secretary of UNCITRAL

10.40-11.30 a.m.	Aspirations and priorities of developing countries - Representatives from various regions summarize what developing countries expect from UNCITRAL: Abbas Safarian Neamat Abad, Head, Department of Treaties, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran; Ana Isabel Piaggi de Vanossi, Professor and Judge, Buenos Aires; B. M. Koentjoro-Jakti, Assistant to the Minister of Trade of Indonesia, Jakarta; Robert Rufus Hunja, Permanent Mission of Kenya to the United Nations, New York
11.30 a.m.-12 noon	Break
12 noon-12.45 p.m.	Open floor: Final suggestions for the future activities of UNCITRAL
12.45-1 p.m.	Closing speech Carl-August Fleischhauer, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, The Legal Counsel, United Nations

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